



Handi-Dogs, Inc.

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year: 7/1/16 - 6/30/17

ACCREDITATIONS

In December, 2016 Handi-Dogs became the only 100% owner-trained service dog school in the western states to earn accreditation with Assistance Dogs International (ADI). Achieving this honor has been something we have worked towards for many years.



While we believe our team is doing an excellent job helping people with disabilities train their own dogs to assist them, we felt it important for this to be validated by outside professionals. After review of our operational procedures, in-person interviews with staff, volunteers, board members, current clients and certified teams, plus observation of several one-on-one and group training sessions, one of the accreditors stated,

"I have done 50 accreditations spanning four continents and have not seen such talented trainers in a very long time. We recognize that training dogs is much easier than teaching people to train their own dogs. And, you are working with people with disabilities. The obstacles you have to overcome are so much more than other service dog trainers. Your trainers' passion and compassion for the people that was shown is unbelievable - and it is backed up with their knowledge and skills."

Handi-Dogs is also pleased to announce it has earned accreditation from the Better Business Bureau. Every two years the organization requires a review of an organization's practices to maintain accreditation. In Spring of 2017, the BBB re-accredited Handi-Dogs. This is one way we commit to transparency.



COLLABORATION & CONTINUOUS LEARNING

We believe collaboration is key to keeping abreast of best practices in the service dog training industry.

In October, 2016 we invited trainers from ADI accredited Next Step Service Dogs in California to visit our facility for a joint learning weekend. It was very beneficial for both organizations as we shared our practices and policies, and provided fresh insight to our mutual challenges.



VIDEO

Debuting at our April, 2017 Doggie Shorts - A Furry Film Fest fundraiser, was our latest video...*To Be Or Not To Be*. This short video shows some of the tasks service dogs do and in a light-hearted way also conveys that not all dogs are suited for this work. If you missed it, please view it on our website.



Follow Handi-Dogs on social media to keep up to date on all we are doing.



PROGRAM UPDATES AND STATISTICS

SPECIALIZED DOG TRAINING

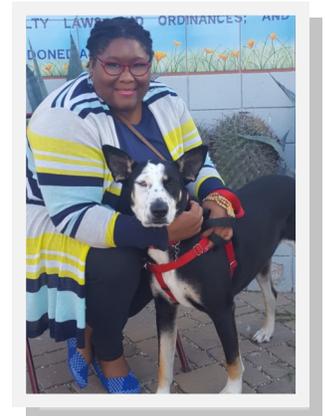
Service Dog Training Program

- ◆ Assessed 28 potential person/dog teams - 71% (20) were invited into the service dog training program.
- ◆ 40 person/dog teams participated in the service dog program.
- ◆ 5 person/dog teams were certified as service dog teams. (Training typically takes 12 - 18 months.)
- ◆ 27 certified teams were re-evaluated. 89% (24) of the teams passed and were re-certified.

Rescue To Service Program

Since program inception (early 2016) through June, 2017:

- ◆ 38 potential dogs were assessed - 63% (24) were accepted into the program, however only 21 entered the program. 3 were adopted prior to us being able to place in a trained foster's home.
- ◆ Of the 21 dogs enrolled in foster care:
 - ◆ 38% (8) dogs were matched and adopted by a person with a disability to continue training for their unique needs.
 - ◆ 5% (1) dog remained in foster care
 - ◆ 57% (12) were released from the program due to energy levels, medical, temperament, or behavioral issues. This is on par with our original expectations. All of the dogs were adopted to homes as pet dogs.
 - ◆ 5 people with disabilities were on the list at the end of June, waiting to be matched with a dog.



Other Dog Training Programs

- ◆ 50 person/dog teams participated in therapy dog (volunteer with your dog) training.
- ◆ 56 older adult handlers (ages 50+) participated in well-mannered companion dog training.
- ◆ 3 people with disabilities had training for in-home assistance work only (no public access training).

VOLUNTEERS & GOVERNANCE

2,672 volunteer hours were realized this fiscal year, valued at \$ 64,496 per the Independent Sector.

With 1 full-time and 6 part-time staff, volunteers are critical to delivery of our mission.

2016/2017 Board of Directors:

Adina Wingate (*Chair*)
Jane Klipp (*Vice Chair*)
Kim Egita, CPA (*Treasurer*)

Melinda Franz (*Secretary*)
Vicki Beaudoin, DAFC
Robin Campos

Dr. Curtis Mack
Kristen Wendler
JoAnn Turnbull (*ex-officio*)

Handi-Dogs, Inc. Mission

Handi-Dogs is dedicated to helping older adults and people with disabilities gain independence and improve their quality of life through specialized training of dogs and to advocate about the important role of service dogs.

SERVICE DOG LIFESTYLE

- ◆ Once a person/dog team is certified, our relationship does not end. We encourage all Handi-Dogs certified service dog teams to attend one free group lesson a month to help maintain their skills.
- ◆ Group play sessions for certified service dogs and those in training began this year to help dogs get needed exercise, benefit from supervised off-leash dog-to-dog interactions, and to let them just be dogs. We believe a healthy work/life balance is important for people and dogs.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- ◆ 26 presentations were made to educate community members about the different roles, laws, and certification requirements relating to service, emotional-support, and therapy dogs.
- ◆ 16 all-employee training sessions for CODAC Behavioral Health were conducted.
- ◆ 21 information tables were staffed at community events providing an opportunity for the public to learn about our services and inquire about our programs at a place convenient for them.
- ◆ 10 local media stories helped us get information out to the community.



Nash and Darcey



Nash served in the Air Force for 20 years. During the Vietnam War he was an avionics technician. When the planes weren't flying he was recruited to pick up body parts and tags to help identify bodies.

After retiring from the Air Force he worked at a Tucson based aerospace company. He retired from there close to 30 years later. It was at that time, without the daily routine of work, that he began having nightmares and other symptoms of PTSD. Medications were helping but bouts of anxiety still surfaced.

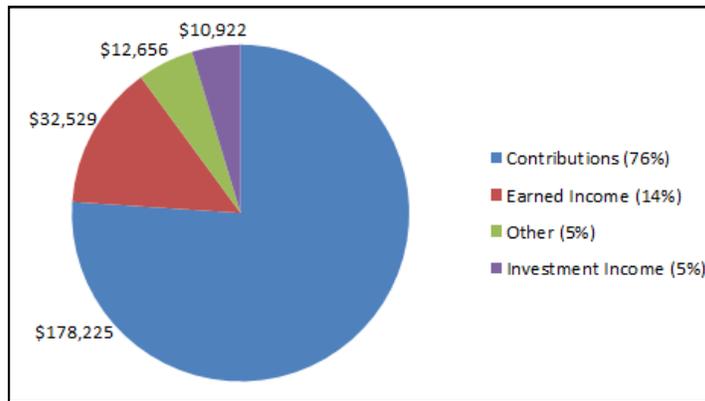
Not intending to train a service dog, Nash and his wife adopted two puppies. One of them was Darcey, who instinctively knew Nash needed extra attention when he was feeling a lot of anxiety. They decided to train her to be Nash's service dog. Some of the tasks Darcey now does include providing deep pressure stimulation when Nash is anxious, she picks up and brings things to Nash such as his cane, phone or items he drops - even a thin credit card. Nash has diabetes and Darcey is trained to alert him to changes in his glucose levels.

Nash says, "I never met a dog that was smarter than I was - until Darcey."

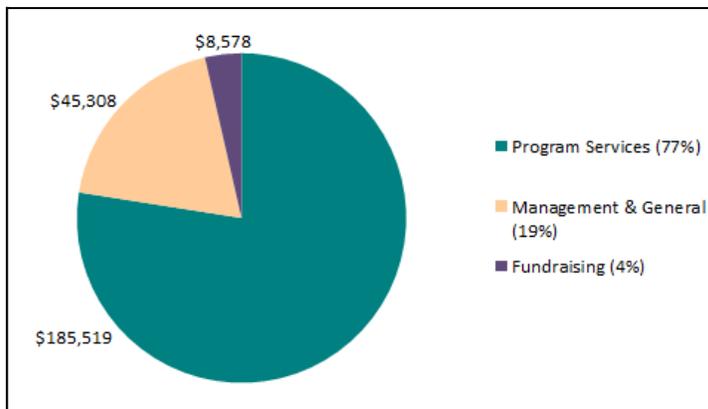
SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

(For year ending 6/30/17 unaudited.)

Operating Revenue



Operating Expenses



Total Assets \$ 1,091,898
 Total Liabilities \$14,472
 Total Net Assets \$1,077,426

LEGACY SOCIETY FOR HANDI-DOGS

The Legacy Society for Handi-Dogs is a group of caring individuals committed to ensuring the long-term sustainability of Handi-Dogs, Inc.

These individuals have thoughtfully planned how they can financially support Handi-Dogs, in a special way. Their 'Planned Gifts' (bequests, named beneficiary of insurance, transfer of stock, etc.) provide the resources to preserve the organization's future and ensure it is available to serve others for generations to come.

To join the Society, simply tell us you have arranged for a Planned Gift to benefit Handi-Dogs, Inc.

Email: CEO@Handi-Dogs.org
 Call: 520-326-3412
 Write: Handi-Dogs, Inc.
 Attn: President / CEO
 75 S. Montego Dr.
 Tucson, AZ 85710

CAROL AND BELLE



Carol has spina bifida and utilizes a wheelchair as she is unable to walk.

When Carol got Belle as a 4 month old pup, "I had no clue how to get Belle to do things I needed her to help me with." Carol discovered Handi-Dogs where she learned how to train Belle to become her service dog. Belle helps by picking things up that Carol drops. She opens doors and also carries things in an easily accessible pack.

How has this changed Carol's life? Carol says, "By training Belle to assist me, I have more self-confidence and I've increased my independence as I'm now able to do more daily activities because of her."



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